

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A goods collection assisting method of assisting a work of allowing each of a plurality of business entities to exchange used goods of other business entities which are collected with said other business entities and take back used goods said each business entity wants to take back, comprising:

a collected goods information input step of inputting collected goods information representing collected goods to be stored in a predetermined storage place;

an information processing step of storing said collected goods information input from said collected goods information input step [unit], processing said stored collected goods information, preparing stored goods information indicating collected goods to be taken back by each of said plurality of business entities and notifying each business entity of said stored goods information;

a receiver information processing step of receiving and outputting said stored goods information from said information processing step, and inputting desired goods-to-take-back information associated with collected goods each business entity wants to take back and prepared based on said stored goods information; and

a keeper information processing step of receiving and outputting said desired goods-to-take-back information input from said receiver information processing step.

Claim 26 (Original): A goods collection assisting method which assists a work of allowing each of a plurality of business entities to exchange used goods of other business

entities which are collected with said other business entities and take back used goods said each business entity wants to take back, and which comprises:

a step of storing collected goods information representing collected goods to be stored in a predetermined storage place in a memory unit;

a step of processing said collected goods information stored in said memory unit to prepare stored goods information to be referred to by said plurality of business entities to take back collected goods; and

a step of receiving desired goods-to-take-back information prepared based on said stored goods information and associated with collected goods each business entity wants to take back.

Claim 27 (Original): An information processing method for a business entity which assists a work of allowing each of a plurality of business entities to exchange used goods of other business entities which are collected with said other business entities and take back said used goods said each business entity wants to take back, and which comprises:

a step of sending carry-in schedule information indicating a schedule of bringing used goods into a predetermined storage place to a control information processing unit;

a step of receiving stored goods information indicating goods stored in said predetermined storage place and to be taken back by said business entity from said control information processing unit and outputting said stored goods information; and

a step of transmitting desired goods-to-take-back information indicating a schedule of taking back said goods to said control information processing unit.

Claim 28 (Original): An information processing method for goods collection assistance, which assists a work of allowing each of a plurality of business entities to

exchange used goods of other business entities which are collected with said other business entities and take back used goods said each business entity wants to take back, and which comprises:

- a step of receiving a schedule of bringing collected goods into a predetermined storage place from a control information processing system for controlling collected goods and outputting said schedule;

- a step of sending storage information of said collected goods brought in said predetermined storage place to said control information processing system,

- a step of receiving and outputting desired goods-to-take-back information about used goods each taking-back business entity wants to take back via said control information processing system; and

- a step of sending information indicating goods delivery out of said predetermined storage place to said control information processing system.

Claim 29 (Original): A goods collection assisting method comprising the steps of:
inputting information about used goods brought in by a carrying-in person into a predetermined storage place through first input means;

- storing said input information about goods in memory means;

- extracting information about goods stored in said memory means and preparing stored goods information to be referred to by a plurality of taking-back persons;

- receiving, through second input means, desired goods-to-take-back information which is prepared based on said prepared stored goods information and is about goods each taking-back person wants to take back;

- performing a predetermined process based on said input desired goods-to-take-back information and said information about goods stored in said memory means, thereby

preparing delivering-out information for delivering goods out of said predetermined storage place; and

outputting said prepared delivering-out information.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

Claim 31 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein information about said collected goods includes information for specifying a manufacturer of said goods, and

said information processing step includes the step of classifying said collected goods by manufacturer and preparing said stored goods information based on that classification.

Claim 32 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said collected goods information input step includes a desired goods-to-bring-in information input step of inputting desired goods-to-bring-in information about said goods each business entity wants to bring in before said each business entity brings collected goods in said predetermined storage place, and the step of inputting information indicating that said collected goods have been brought in when said collected goods have been brought in said predetermined storage place.

Claim 33 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of outputting said desired goods-to-bring-in information to be ready for reception at said predetermined storage place.

Claim 34 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said keeper information processing step receives said desired goods-to-take-back information via said information processing system.

Claim 35 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 34, wherein said information processing step excludes from said collected goods information those collected goods which are specified by said desired goods-to-take-back information as desired goods to take back.

Claim 36 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said keeper information processing step outputs said desired goods-to-take-back information to be ready for shipment from said predetermined storage place.

Claim 37 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said keeper information processing step inputs shipment information indicating collected goods which have been shipped out of said predetermined storage place, and said information processing step stores said shipment information from said keeper information processing step in association with said stored collected goods information and excludes said shipped collected goods from said stored goods information.

Claim 38 (New): The goods collection assisting system according to claim 25, wherein said predetermined storage place includes plural first storage places each of which receives collected goods from said business entities and one or plural second storage places, provided one for a plurality of said first storage places, which stocks said collected goods stored in said plurality of first storage places, and

said information processing step stores, for individual collected goods, information including those business entities which have collected said individual collected goods, those business entities which are to take back said individual collected goods, information specifying said individual collected goods, a scheduled reception date of receiving said individual collected goods in said first storage places, a reception date at which said individual collected goods have been received in said first storage places, a scheduled transporting date of transporting said individual collected goods to said second storage places from said first storage places, a scheduled delivering-out date of delivering said individual collected goods to individual business entities from said second storage places and a delivering-out date at which said individual collected goods have been delivered to individual business entities from said second storage places.

Claim 39 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said information processing step executes a charging process of charging each business entity for storage and exchange works based on at least a quantity and a storage period of collected goods stored in said predetermined storage place.

Claim 40 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein for each of said collected goods, said information processing system stores at least one of a scheduled date of delivery into said predetermined storage place, an actual delivering-in date, a collecting business entity, a taking-back business entity, information specifying goods, a scheduled delivering-out date and an actual delivering-out date.

Claim 41 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 25, wherein said information processing step prepares said stored goods information every given period and sends said stored goods information to each business entity.

Claim 42 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 26, wherein said goods collection assisting method accepts and stores storing schedule information indicating a scheduled storing date in said memory unit before said each business entity brings used goods in said predetermined storage place, said method further comprising the steps of:

accepting storage information indicating an actual date of receiving said collected goods in said predetermined storage place and storing said storage information in said memory unit in association with said storing schedule information,

storing a desired taking-back date, included in said desired goods-to-take-back information, in said memory unit in association with said storage information, and

accepting delivering-out information indicating an actual date of delivery out of said predetermined storage place and storing said delivering-out information in said memory unit in association with said desired taking-back date.

Claim 43 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 26, wherein said predetermined storage place includes plural first storage places each of which receives collected goods from said business entities and a second storage place, provided one for said plural first storage places, which receives said collected goods stored in said plurality of first storage places, and

said memory unit stores information indicating a delivering-in date of delivery of said collected goods into said first storage places, a delivering-in date of delivery of said collected

goods into said second storage place and a delivering-out date of carrying said collected goods out of said second storage place to an associated business entity.

Claim 44 (New): The goods collection assisting method according to claim 26, further comprising a charging step of charging each business entity for storage and exchanging works based on at least a quantity and a storage period of collected goods for each taking-back business entity.

Claim 45 (New): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined storage place includes plural first storage places in which said business entities bring collected goods and one or plural second storage places, provided one for a plurality of said first storage places, for stocking said collected goods stored in said plurality of first storage places, and

said carry-in schedule information includes a scheduled date of bringing collected goods into said first storage places, a carry-in business entity, a taking-back business entity and information indicating collected goods, and

said desired goods-to-take-back information includes information specifying collected goods, transported from any one of said first storage places to said second storage place and stocked in said second storage place and a scheduled taking-back date.

Claim 46 (New): The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein at least one of a bill and a detailed statement prepared based on at least a storage period of collected goods for each business entity in said predetermined storage place is received from said control information processing step and output.

Claim 47 (New): The information processing method for goods collection assistance according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined storage place includes plural first storage places which receive collected goods from said business entities and one or plural second storage places, provided one for a plurality of said first storage places, which stock said collected goods from said plurality of first storage places and at which said stocked collected goods are delivered to a take-back business entity, and

said information processing step sends information indicating one of a collecting business entity and a taking-back business entity of collected goods delivered in said first storage places, a delivering-in date of delivery in said first storage places, a transporting date of transportation to said second storage places from said first storage places, and a date at which said collected goods have been taken back to said taking-back business entity.